

## **A MESSAGE FOR JOB CORPS STUDENTS, STAFF, PARENTS AND GUARDIANS**

As you are aware, there have been confirmed cases of H1N1 virus influenza (Swine Flu) reported across the United States in the last few days. Our Job Corps center staff work closely with local, state, and national health agencies to monitor and address public health issues affecting our students and staff and to implement preventive planning. In the event that a student should present symptoms for an influenza like illness, our centers have protocols in place to ensure that the student is tested, diagnosed and treated quickly. Also, pending a confirmatory test, procedures are in place to ensure they receive appropriate treatment and to minimize his/her exposure to other students and staff.

In close consultation with public health officials and our own medical advisors, our Job Corps center staff is taking the appropriate precautions to protect the health of our students and staff, and minimize the potential for the transmission of this virus within our Job Corps centers. In the event that it should become necessary to temporarily close a center to minimize the spread of the virus, you will be notified immediately regarding plans for transporting students to safe environments.

H1N1 influenza is characterized by fever (100° or more), sore throat, cough, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. The illness may last up to seven days, but people are considered to be contagious as long as symptoms persist. If you or anyone you know has these symptoms, you are advised to contact your local health care provider/facility by phone at once.

Public health officials want you to protect yourself and your family against H1N1 influenza. Taking certain precautions greatly reduces the chances of contracting the H1N1 virus.

Preventive measures include:

- Covering your mouth and nose while sneezing or coughing to ensure you do not transmit the virus to others
- Washing your hands frequently with soap or alcohol based cleaners, especially after you cough or sneeze
- Avoiding contact with infected persons
- Avoid using public transportation if experiencing flu-like symptoms
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

For more information on the H1N1 virus please visit the CDC Web site:

<http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Parents and Guardians, be advised that your student's Job Corps center will be in contact with you should your child present flu like symptoms or if center closing becomes necessary. Should you have questions, please contact the Job Corps National Call Center at 1-800-733-JOBS (5627). The Call Center is operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week.